



## GUATEMALA: INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST YOUTH - JANUARY 2019

### MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PREPARATION OF YOUTH ENCOUNTER

The international commission preparing the International Gathering of Marist Youth met in Guatemala City from June 27 – 30 to continue the preparations for the youth gathering that will be held in the city in January.

The International Gathering of Marist Youth - Guatemala 2019 is organised by the four branches of the Marist Family and is expected to have 200 participants from different places with Marist presence. They will represent the Administrative Units of each Marist congregation, chosen by the branches.

The main purpose of the meeting of the International Commission was to retake and understand all processes and preparations so far to bring us to the same page by checking what we have done and what ought to be done. The meeting also helps the commission to revisit some important places that are related to the gathering. The objectives of the gathering were checked and details of the technical aspects of the gathering were discussed.

The coming together of both the international commission and local organising commission was a peak moment as they look forward to the hope that something unique will be prepared in order to give the young Marists an enriching encounter and experience during the fourth-coming gathering.

The commission emphasised that participants at this meeting will gain an experience that can be shared with their groups when they



get back to their countries. The choice of the young people is important to the gathering hence the need to make the WEAVING LIFE clearer in our conversation and presentation. With the help of experts, the commission discussed ways of planning, coordinating, and the logistics of movement.

The commission reflected a lot on how to bring out the meaning of the metaphor of WEAVING LIFE in the entire preparatory process and during the encounter.

The commission reviewed the task of the different committees in charge of the encounter.

The commission members are follows: Br Carlos Alberto Rojas, Br Mark Omede, Fr Juan Carlos Piña (SM), Sr Anne McCabe (SM), Sr Cristina Giustozzi (SMSM). The local organising commission members are: Brothers Jorge Sanchez, Luis Manuel Gómez and Carlos Vélez. The lay members include Kim Peña, Yasmin Arriaza, Heidy Ceórrez Cerrano, Alejandro Caires and Victor Santizo.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

• The Mission Committee is gathering in Rome this week from Monday, July 23, until Friday, July 27. Brothers Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, vicar general, Ben Consigli, general councillor, Br Libardo Garzón, economo general, and Carlos Alberto Rojas and Mark Omede of the

Secretariat of Mission are attending.  
• From Monday, July 23, until this Saturday, July 28, Brothers Ken McDonald and Óscar Martín Vicario, General Councillors are participating in a meeting with the Provincials of Africa (CSAC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

• During those same days, Brothers Ernesto Sánchez, superior general, and João Carlos do Prado, general councillor are taking part in the Provincial Assembly and Provincial Chapter of México Occidental in Guadalajara, Mexico.

## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2018

### TWO MARIST YOUTH ATTEND UN TALKS IN NEW YORK

Two Marist youth from Mexico are attending the High-level Political Forum 2018 – the main platform in charge of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals – in the UN's New York headquarters.

The Forum met from July 9 – 18 with the participation of Mariana Díaz and Nadia Lomelí. The two young women represented thousands of Marist children from Latin America who have been involved in assessing the eight Millennium Development Goals since 2013 and in the implementation of the UN's SDGs in their countries.

The Marist Solidarity network in Latin America (Red Cora-

zón Solidario) and FMSI helped organise several initiatives to promote their involvement. The last activity was an e-learning encounter involving 63 children who met simultaneously in Brasilia, Brazil, and Querétaro, Mexico, on June 8 and 9 to find ways to

promote the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Mariana and Nadia attended talks on inclusive communities for children; dialogue between children and Marta Santos Pais, the special representative of the United Nations' secretary-general on violence against children; and children's action regarding the SDGs.

Members of Global Movement for Children in Latin America and the Caribbean (MMI LAC), present in New York, organised these events. Brother Dan O'Riordan, FMSI's representative in New York, hosted and accompanied Mariana and Nadia.



## BR RAÚL JOSÉ SCHÖNFELD HERGENREDER

### NEW PROVINCIAL OF CRUZ DEL SUR

Brother Raúl José Schönfeld Hergenreder has been appointed provincial superior of Cruz del Sur for a first three-year term replacing Brother Alberto Aparicio, who has served as provincial since 2015.

The news was given to the province's Marists of Champagnat through a letter written by superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez on 18 July.

Br Raúl will begin his mandate during the next Provincial Chapter, which will be held from Sept. 28 – 30.

The Province of Cruz del Sur province, of the América Sur region, is made up of three countries: Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

#### Br Raúl José Schönfeld Hergenreder

Br Raúl was born on Jan. 7, 1972, in San Rafael, a small town located in the province of Entre Ríos in Argentina. He lived there with his family, in a rural environment up to the age of 12. In 1985, he encountered Marist life and entered the Juniorate of Lujan, in the province of Buenos Aires, where he completed secondary school. His initial formation was in the same city and he made his religious profession in 1993.

He studied at the Marist Superior Institute where he obtained the title of Professor for Primary Teaching and Professor of Religious Sciences. In 2002, he was qualified for initial formation in Conferre, Chile.

Br Raúl has worked as a primary and secondary school teacher as well as a catechist. He also worked as the coordinator of pastoral ministry in an educational centre.

He was part of the team of vocation animation of his province and collaborated in initial formation – as Master of Novices – in the interprovincial novitiate in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

In 2015, Br Raúl was elected Councillor and Vice Provincial, while at the same time coordinating the Marist Vocation Area of his province.



Brothers Raúl and Alberto during the General Chapter

NEWS IN BRIEF

**BRASIL CENTRO-NORTE**

From July 15 – 22, the eighth edition of the Vocation Week of the Marist Family took place in Rondolandia, Brazil, with the participation of around 45 young people, laity, brothers and priests. The main goal of the meeting was to offer workshops, talks and moments of fraternity to offer young people the opportunity to experience in a concrete way the richness of Marist spirituality.

**HERMITAGE**

Forty-four participants from the Hermitage Escuela de Educadores (Hermitage School of Educators - HEE) and six formators and guides attended a retreat from July 8 – 15 in Hermitage, France. They visited Marist places, such as the paths traveled by Saint Marcellin, Rosey and Marlhés.

**THE NEW CD OF BROTHER MICHAEL HERRY**

A new album, 37 songs with popular hymns with biblical themes, is available on the website of the Marist Brother of Australia: <https://goo.gl/EWMgCL>. To download the songs, right-click on the title and choose 'Save the link as'. To download individual files, left click on the title to select it. Then right click on the title, choose "Save link as ..."

**EAST TIMOR**

Brothers João Batista Pereira (Brasil Centro-Sur) and Manoel Soares da Silva (Brasil Centro-Norte) have completed a 20-week English language course in Australia. Now they will start their new mission in East Timor.

**AMAZONIA**

Marists are celebrating 50 years of Marist presence this year in the State of Acre (Brazil Sul-Amazonia province). After several activities, especially in Tarauacá and Cruzeiro do Sul, there was a celebration of thanks in the cathedral of the city of Cruzeiro do Sul on July 21.

MARIST VOCATION IN AFRICA

**KENIA: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN LAY AND BROTHERS COMMISSION**

This year's annual meeting of the African Lay and Brothers Commission took place at the Marist International Centre (MIC) from July 4 – 6 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The members present were Alida Bodomanitra (Madagascar) and Brothers Elias Odinaka Iwu (coordinator, Nigeria), John Kusi Mensah (Ghana), Denis Khasu (Malawi), and Valentin Djawu (Democratic Republic of Congo).

The Commission's members discussed general key issues to set the atmosphere for the constructive discussions.

Two issues were proposed for this first discussion: celebrations and communication.

The African Lay and Brothers Commission requested its members to finalise their specific action plans for their administrative units and to develop their budgets for their planned activities.

One leading thought that came out throughout the meeting was the need for the Secretariat of the Laity to continue to support the Commission in mobilisation and formation, as well as greater support by the Conference of Major Superiors of Africa and Madagascar.

After reviewing the strategic plan, members of the African Lay and Brothers Commission took up various responsibilities.

The Commission came up with some considerations after the fruitful input of Pep Buetas, co-director of the Secretariat of the Laity, who participated through a video conference.

**Non-Catholics**

In the African context, there is an experience of non-Catholics who expressed willingness to become lay Marist. We understand and cherish that a vocation to lay Marist stems from people who want to deepen their Christian faith guided by the



spirit of Marcellin Champagnat and sharing his charism. Therefore, whoever has the desire to become a lay Marist, we have no mandate to stop them. However, we feel that caution must be taken not to scandalize the Catholic brethren. Ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue is necessary to incorporate non-Catholic lay.

In some instances where Catholics left the Church due to intermarriages, we feel that incorporating these non-Catholics might be a way of providing them an opportunity to return. However, there is great need to accompany them on their journey.

**Fraternities**

Lay people and brothers live together in the Community Lavalla200> Atlantis in South Africa. In Mwanza, Tanzania, there is a fraternity. We hope that these experiences will spread to other administrative units in Africa. We like the idea of fraternities, but we need to know more about it and we ask help from the Secretariat of the Laity for that.

**Formation for brothers and lay people**

There should be a well-coordinated programme for the formation of brothers and lay when promoting the vocation of lay Marists. Therefore, we request the Secretariat of the Laity to play an active role in developing the programme for the joint formation in various administrative units and at a regional level within Africa.

## MARIST WORLD



South Africa: International Community Lavalla200> in Atlantis



United States  
Marist Leadership Conference



General House  
Writing group for Rule of Life



Mexico  
FORMARME 10



France  
Canadian pilgrims



Greece: Poet Manos Eleftheriou visits Lycée Léonin Néa Smyrni, Athens

## SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

### NIGERIA: CHILD'S RIGHT SEMINAR IN ORLU

The Child's Right Commission of the province of Nigeria held a one-day seminar on June 30 in Orlu, Nigeria, on Safeguarding the Rights of Children and Vulnerable People.

Participants at the seminar included deans of student affairs, headmasters of all the Marist schools in Nigeria, and staff of the Hopeville Rehabilitation Centre of Uturu.

The commission has been sensitizing staff of all Marist establishments on the need to safeguard children and vulnerable people under our care.

The commission is also giving seminars to different Church groups in Nigeria. The commission's chairman, Brother Okey Venantius Anochie, gave



a seminar on Children's Right on July 6 – 8 at the National Renewal Centre, in Enugu, to a group of religious who are preparing for their final vows.

## CURRENT FORMATORS PROGRAMME

### FORMATORS MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR A NEW FORMATION GUIDE

Seventeen brothers from 14 countries drafted a list of considerations for a new formation guide at the end of the Current Formators Programme, held from May 15 – July 12 at the General House in Rome.

“It was a fruitful and significant experience which manifested meaning for them and at the same time the General Administration was enriched by their presence and their contribution to the considerations of the new formation guide,” affirmed Brother Tony Leon, director of the Brothers Today Secretariat and coordinator of the programme.

Changes include the possibility of having young brothers learn two of the four official languages of the Institute – Spanish, English, French and Portuguese.

Suggestions have also been made to offer a greater variety of spiritual practices, such as meditation, contemplation and chants, and ensure that formators are more present, caring and close to the young brothers – as was requested in a series of testimonies videoed around the Marist world that was aired during the programme. Marist spirituality and personal and group accompani-



ment were among the top expectations that young brothers hope to receive during their formation.

Regarding the programme, Br Tony underscored that “they came with a very professional attitude of improving one’s skills in the area of formation, but in the nine weeks they discov-

ered that it wasn’t necessarily a professional development programme.”

“It was a personal opportunity to remember, refresh and renew their identity and mission as formators,” he continued. “Therefore, it is not so much professional development in what to do but discovering new confidence in professing who they are.”

Towards the end of the eighth week, Br. Tony animated a workshop looking at the results of the Marist international colloquium on initial formation held in October 2015, the Vatican document on the identity and mission of the religious brother in the Church and the revision of chapter four of the Institute’s new constitution.

Having looked at the Calls of the 22nd General Chapter, the participants gathered in their respective stages of formation (pre-postulancy, postulancy, novitiate and post-novitiate) and created a list of considerations for the new formation guide. The suggestions were then presented to superior general Brother Ernesto Sánchez who will in turn discuss them with the general council.



## SPAIN: MARIST LEADERSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

### FORMATION FOR LEADERS IN THE COMPOSTELA PROVINCE

A group of Marist educators from the Compostela province began the formative and experiential adventure of ELEM (Expert in Leadership and Marist Spirituality) in October 2017.

Many contents were addressed throughout the course: personal identity, spirituality and religion, the leadership model of Zenger and Folkman, the Gier interiority framework, spiritual intelligence, Marist leadership and spirituality, and contemplative prayer.

From July 1 – 7, the pilgrimage that began last year came to an end. The Marist leaders concluded it with a meeting at the Marist residence of Valladolid in which participants approached the Marist charism from the perspective of leadership and spirituality, with Mary and Saint Marcellin as referents; they reflected on creativity as something that favours spiritual development and they also disposed of time for personal reflection, for inspiration and to act in schools.

During this last period, participants enjoyed the wisdom and good work of Brother Tony León, Brother Nicolás García and Siro López. They reflected on the



fact that spirituality should not be limited to a specific space, nor to some marked techniques, but what is truly creative is that it can go beyond time and space in schools, with the Gospel as a reference and with the objective of taking care of people. They also discovered the features of the leadership of St Marcellin Champagnat through his letters, which show both his strength and his sweetness, and lead to an apostolic spirituality, reaching the peripheries.

## GLOBAL FAMILY

### FRANCE: VOLUNTEER WORK IN N.D. DE L'HERMITAGE

Mariana Tapia Mendoza shared the life and mission of the community of N.D. de l'Hermitage in June. Mariana is a young Marist from San Luis Potosí, Mexico. After finishing her university studies in Nantes, France, she asked to volunteer at l'Hermitage. She accompanied the groups with one of the members of the community and has put her artist skills at the service of the decoration of the house. This is her testimony.

My stay at l'Hermitage has been great and has exceeded all my expectations. Since my arrival, I had the intention to serve, to open my heart and all my senses to let myself be touched by everything that I was going to live, to appreciate each member of the community and, at the same time, to share without reservation with them.

However, in the end, I have received much more than what I have been able to give. One can clearly breathe the Marist spirit in the house: fraternity, simplicity, faith, love for others, and joy. I would say, above all, joy! It was

an opportunity to deepen my faith, my knowledge about the Marists and, in particular, about the life of Father Champagnat and the first community of the Little Brothers of Mary. I feel truly blessed for having had this opportunity. I feel very proud for having served as the first volunteer and I hope that my initiative will be the start of the welcoming of other young people in l'Hermitage, whose hearts beat at the same pace as mine, according to the



spirit of Sant Marcellin Champagnat. It has really been a very enriching experience. God bless the community of l'Hermitage, and above all... may God continue to live in their midst!

The community has been very happy to welcome Mariana and thanked her warmly at the end of her stay.

## VANUATU, URUGUAY AND CHILE

### FMSI SUBMITS THREE NEW REPORTS TO UN ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) submitted three new reports on Vanuatu, Uruguay and Chile to the United Nations Human Rights Council on July 12.

Marist teams from the district of Melanesia, the Cruz del Sur province and the Santa María de los Andes province worked several months to elaborate these reports on different issues that affect the rights of children.

The main issue in Vanuatu are children with disabilities and effects of climate change.

Chile has the challenges of children being deprived of parental care, children with disabilities, violence against children and children participation in all kinds of areas of interest.



Uruguay is facing issues with juvenile justice, decent housing, early disengagement from the educational system and violence against children.

The Human Rights Council will review these countries in January.

FMSI now hopes to prepare lobbying strategies to present its recommendations before diplomatic corps in their embassies and to permanent missions in Geneva, Switzerland.

These processes strengthen Marist partnerships with organisations like Franciscans International, Edmund Rice International, International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) and other national organisations.

Download UPR: [Vanuatu](#), [Uruguay](#) e [Chile](#)



- FMSI is the foundation created by the Institute to promote and protect the rights of children. FMSI carries on its mission through the activity of advocacy and lobbying and with projects in the countries in which the Marists are present.
- FMSI was constituted in 2007 in Italy as a non-profit organization of social usefulness (ONLUS).
- From 2011 it has the special consultative status before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.
- FMSI is member of: Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE), Centre Catholique International de Genève (CCIG), Child Rights Connect, Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinoamérica y El Caribe, FOCSIV (Federazione degli Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario), Observatorio Niñez y Adolescencia (ONA), Santiago de Chile.

#### Institute of the Marist Brothers - General House

Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy - [comunica@fmsi.it](mailto:comunica@fmsi.it)

Our website: <http://www.champagnat.org>

YouTube channel:

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